

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a method and a usage counter for registering a usage value of a commodity, a measured value of the commodity is generated between an input and an output for the commodity, a rate value for charging for usage of said commodity is non-volatilely stored, and in a security module a monetary charge is calculated from the measured value and the rate value. A communication device communicates the calculated monetary charge to a location remote from the usage counter in a secured communication. The security module generates an electronic reaction to attempts to fraudulently manipulate the calculated monetary charge, such as by breaching the security of the security module, or by unusual deviations in the measured value of the commodity.